

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to add a limitation that the selectivity of the catalyst after 1.6 kT/m³ of ethylene oxide production decreases no more than about 3 mole %. Support for this amendment can be found in Example 2 of the application. Applicants submit that this feature is neither taught nor suggested by the previously cited references. This feature relates to the surprising discovery that the catalysts in the process of the present invention, while having a lower initial selectivity than achievable by employing more rhenium, retain their selectivity better during use, such that after a certain period of use they outperform the catalysts which comprise more rhenium and accordingly have a longer service life. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is requested.

Should the Examiner find any impediment to the prompt allowance of the claims that could be corrected by a telephone interview with the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,
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